



Councilmember Charles Allen

## AN AMENDMENT

#1

### IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**DATE:** December 20, 2022

**OFFERED BY:** Councilmember Charles Allen

**TO:** B24-0838, the “Restoring Trust and Credibility to Forensic Sciences Amendment Act of 2022”

**VERSION:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduced
<input type="checkbox"/>	Committee Report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Committee Print
<input type="checkbox"/>	First Reading
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amended First Reading
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute

### Amendment

Section 2(i)(14)(C) (lines 238-39) is amended to read as follows:

“(C) Paragraph (2) is amended by striking the phrase “section 5(b)” and inserting the phrase “section 6a(c)(5), including all internal validation studies conducted by the Laboratory, and all data generated during the studies on or after the effective date of the Restoring Trust and Credibility to Forensic Sciences Amendment Act of 2022, passed on 1st reading (Engrossed version of B24-0838); except, that the Laboratory may conceal the names of individuals who submitted samples for the studies” in its place.”.

### Rationale

This amendment would require the Laboratory to post all internal validation studies and all data generated during the studies on the Laboratory’s website. Internal validation studies represent the accumulation of test data that supports a laboratory’s standard operating procedures and ensures that data interpretation methods perform as expected. According to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (“NIST”), there is not enough publicly available data to enable an

external and independent assessment of the degree of reliability of DNA mixture interpretation practices. NIST recommended that forensic laboratories make their underlying validation data publicly available so that the validity of the methods can be properly evaluated. Requiring the release of internal validation studies and underlying data will further promote transparency in the Laboratory's forensic science services and ensure that the Laboratory's data interpretation methods perform as expected. To address concerns over the release of personal identifying information being associated with a DNA or other biometric profile, the Laboratory is permitted to conceal the names of the individuals who submitted samples for use in the studies.